IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 20, 25, 28 and 29 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An online shopping method executed in a system having a server function of ~~controlling~~ managing a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, said method comprising:

~~a reception step of~~ receiving the status of the use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line by the server function;

~~a calculation step of~~ calculating a service point according to the received status of the use of the at least one consumable ~~received in said reception step~~;

~~a relation registration step of, when a customer purchases merchandise provided by a consumable trader on a service based on the service point calculated in said calculation step via a predetermined purchase screen, causing a storage portion to register the service and the consumable trader in relation to each other~~ causing a storage unit to record information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

~~a compensation decision step of~~ deciding a compensation to the consumable trader based on the ~~service registered in relation to the consumable trader in said relation registration step~~ information recorded in the storage unit.

21. to 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, further comprising ~~a second reception step of~~ receiving compensation request information ~~from a second consumable trader~~, wherein said ~~compensation decision~~ deciding step comprises verifying authentication of the received compensation request information ~~received in said second reception step~~ based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said calculation step.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the status of the use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~service based on the service point~~ purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

28. (Currently Amended) An online shopping [[a]] system, comprising:

a server having a server function of ~~controlling~~ managing a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device;

~~reception means for~~ a receiving unit that receives the status of the use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line by the server function;

~~a calculation means for~~ a calculating unit that calculates a service point according to the received status of the use of the at least one consumable ~~received by said reception means~~;

~~a relation registration means that, when a customer purchases merchandise provided by a consumable trader on a service based on the service point calculated by said~~

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calculation means via a predetermined purchase screen, causes a storage portion to register the service and the consumable trader in relation to each other a storage unit that records information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

a compensation decision means for deciding unit that decides a compensation to the consumable trader based on the service registered in relation to the consumable trader by said relation registration means information recorded in the storage unit.

29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 28, further comprising a second reception means for receiving a reception unit that receives compensation request information from a second consumable trader, wherein said compensation decision means deciding unit comprises a verifying unit that verifies means for verifying authentication of the received compensation request information received by said second reception means based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated by said calculation means calculating unit.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the status of the use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

31. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the service based on the service point purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

32. (New) A program stored on a computer readable medium for an online shopping method executed in a system having a server function of managing a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, said program comprising:

receiving the status of the use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line by the server function;

calculating a service point according to the received status of the use of the at least one consumable;

causing a storage unit to record information on a customer's purchase of merchandise provided by a consumable trader, the purchase being based on the calculated service point; and

deciding a compensation to the consumable trader based on the information recorded in the storage unit.

33. (New) A program according to claim 32, further comprising receiving compensation request information, wherein said deciding step comprises verifying authentication of the received compensation request information based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said calculation step.

34. (New) A program according to Claim 32, wherein the status of the use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

35. (New) A program according to Claim 32, wherein the purchase includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.